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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3204

May 31, 2006

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Committee on Governmental Affairs  
and Homeland Security  
United States Senate  
SD 340  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Governmental Affairs  
and Homeland Security  
United States Senate  
SH 604  
Washington, D.C. 20510

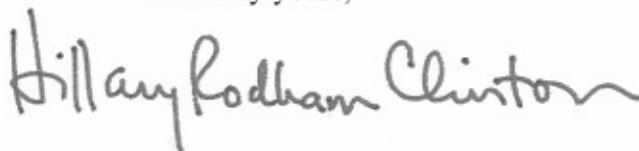
Dear Chairwoman Collins and Ranking Member Lieberman:

The first priority of the Department of Homeland Security should be ensuring that our limited homeland security funds get to where they are needed most. American cities and states living under the greatest threat should receive the funding they need to protect themselves from harm. Even as we approach the fifth anniversary of the September 11th attacks, we were reminded once again today that New York is on its own when it comes to protecting its citizens from future terrorist attacks.

As you know, earlier today, the Department of Homeland Security announced its allocations for the fiscal year 2006 Homeland Security Grant Programs (HSGP). I was troubled to discover that the Department has decided that New York should receive more than \$106.5 million less in HSGP funds than it did last year. Although HSGP funds were cut across the board nationwide, DHS slashed New York's funds by a disproportionately higher amount than most states. Funding under the Urban Area Security Initiative was cut in New York City by more than 40 percent and in Buffalo by 48.5 percent. The Administration has slashed funding for other high-risk areas as well – incredibly, Washington, DC's total funding has been cut by 43 percent.

I call on the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs to hold hearings at the earliest possible date to determine the Secretary's rationale for drastically cutting homeland security dollars to those areas under the greatest threat of attack. I am writing a letter to Secretary Chertoff as well demanding that he provide a rationale for these funding decisions. Our nation deserves to know why the Administration is abandoning areas most in need less than five years after the tragic attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>. These funding cuts are dangerous and shortsighted and the Administration should be forced to account for these cuts.

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton